

TEMPLE

MATH CLUB

Scissors Congruence: How To Cut Up Shapes and Get Away With It – Maxine Calle

WHEN

March 21, 2024

5-6 PM

WHERE

Wachman Hall 617

Take your favorite shape, cut it up into pieces, rearrange them, and glue them back together. What you've just done is called a *cut-and-paste move*, and two shapes which can be connected together by a finite sequence of these moves are said to be *scissors congruent*. Now, given two random shapes, how can we tell if they are scissors congruent? What sorts of properties are preserved under cut-and-paste moves? In this talk, we will explore how mathematicians over the centuries have approached these questions, from Euclid to Hilbert to modern day mathematicians.

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